



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 26, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden:

I write to share concerns over the record inflation experienced nationwide and the current push to spend additional taxpayer funds on a reconciliation package.

As you know, June's inflation report showed a 9.1% increase from a year ago. Most Americans are experiencing the burdens of higher prices, and it is my duty as the sole Representative from South Dakota to communicate the current struggles of my constituents.

I conducted a poll of thousands of South Dakotans, and the results were overwhelming – 94 percent of survey participants responded they are experiencing higher prices at the grocery store, gas station, restaurants, and department stores. These prices are making it harder for individuals and families to make ends meet, and have created dilemmas for state construction projects, police departments, and school districts. Higher prices are affecting South Dakota across the board.

The latest inflation report showed the largest jump in recent months and marked the largest 12-month increase of inflation since November 1981. Clearly, Washington's reckless spending and irresponsible energy agenda has contributed to the inflationary pressure.

Just today, the Conference Board published their Consumer Confidence Index for the month of July, showing consumer confidence down for a third consecutive month. Lynn Franco, Senior Director of Economic Indicators at The Conference Board stated, "concerns about inflation—rising gas and food prices, in particular—continued to weigh on consumers."¹

Solutions like my bill, the *Ocean Shipping Reform Act*, year-round E15, and increasing domestic energy production can counteract this pressure. I urge you to resist calls from my colleagues to spend our way out of this crisis and turn your focus to policies that will unleash American energy.

Sincerely,

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.conference-board.org/topics/consumer-confidence/press/CCI-July-2022>